Report of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Drug Industry

2603. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Chemicals and Petro-Chemi-cals to formulate the strategy and recommend measures to give further impetus to Research and Development in the Drug Industry has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its findings and how far these have been accepted;

(c) whether this report is available for sale or for reference purpose; and

(d) if so, the place where it is available and the price thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The Inter-Ministerial Group set up under the Chairmanship of former Secretary (Chemicals and Petrochemicals) made the following recomme-dations to give further impetus to R&D in the Drug sector:

(i) Exemption from Custom duty on capital equipment consumables, biological and necessary spare parts imported for R&D facility.

(ii) MOD VAT facility for capital equipment, consumables etc. used by recognised R&D units in the public and private sector.

(iii) Provision for enhanced R&D funding for joint collaborative research.

(iv) On a graded scale, Weighted/ tax deduction in Income Tax for-R&D expenses incurred by the company which develops a new drug not introduced elsewhere.

(v) Similar tax reduction on graded scale in Income Tax for R&D conducted in-house with the approval' of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

In regard to recommendations (i) to" (iii) above. Government has since de cided to accomodate these to the extent possible within the existing -fiscal framework by sorting out problems of adminsitrative nature if any and througfi preparatory exercises for annual budget.

As regard recommendations at (iv) and (v) above, the Government does not consider it necessary since expenses incurred on R&D are already being allowed.

(c) and (d) The report is not available for sale.

Fall in Agricultural Production

2604. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-RAO PATIL: Will the AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for fall in agricultural production for the year 1995-96, as compared to the previous three years to-getherwith crop-wise figures in details

(b) the efforts being made to supply fertilizers, good seeds and irrigation facilities at reasonable rates so that the farmer gets remunerative prices which are higher than input cost;

(c) the facts taken into consideration to calculate the input-costs; and .

(d) the measures taken to help arid land cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) Crop-wise production of various crops for the last four years is as follows:—

(Million tonnes)

CROP	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (likely)
Rice	72.86	80.30	81.16	80.96
Wheat	57.21	59.84	65.47	64.00
Coarse Cereals	36.59	30.81	30.35	30.43
Pulses	12.82	13.31	14.12	14.97
Total Foodgrains	179.48	184.26	191.10	190.36
Oilseeds (Total)	20.11	21.50	21.42	22.90
Sugarcace	228.03	229.66	271.23	267.38
Cotton (Million Bales)	11.40	10.74	12.11	13.03

Production of most of the crops during 1995-96 is higher than 1992-93 except coarse cereals. Wheat production has also shown some decline in 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95. The decline in production of coarse cereals may be attributed to deficient rainfall and unfavourable weather conditions in some of the States. The fall in wheat production is basically one in the and unbalanced use of fertilisers and unfavourable weather.

(b) The farmers are being supplied fertilizers, certified seeds, irrigation water and power at subsidised reasonable rates. The situation of fertilizer consumption is likely to improve with the enhanced concessions announced recently on P and K fertilizers.

(c) All paid-out as well as imputed cost incurred by the farmers in raising the crops are taken into consideration for calculating the cost of cultivation/production of crops. The paid-out cost includes hired labour including human, animal and machine labour; maintenance expenses on owned animals and machinery; expenses on material inputs such as seeds (both farms produced and purchased), fertilisers, manure, pesticides, irrigation; depreciation of implements and farm buildings; land revenue and rent paid for leased-inland; and interest on working capital. The items of imputed cost includes value of family labour, managerial input of the farmers, rent on owned land and interest on owned fixed capital for which the farmer does not incur any expenses.

(d) In order to help arid land cultivators, the following centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented:—

(i) Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP).

(ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils.

इन्दिरा महिला योजना

2605. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इन्दिरा महिला योजना मध्य प्रदेश से कब आरम्भ की गई;

(ख) इस योजना के तहत कितने विकास-खण्ड लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं; और

(ग) राज्य के अन्य विकास-खण्डों में यह योजना कब तक लागू की जायेगी?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री एस०आर० बोम्मई): (क) और (ख) इन्दिरा महिला योजना 20 अगस्त, 1995 को मध्य प्रदेश के 14 ब्लाकों में प्रायोगिक आधार पर शुरू की गई।

(ग) प्रायोगिक परियोजना के परिणामों के आधार पर, इस स्कीम के कार्यक्षेत्र का विस्तार करने के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा निर्णय लिया जायेगा।